

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 7 and 15 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 6, 8-11, 14 and 16-19 to read as follows.

1. (Original) A recording apparatus comprising:
a recording head performing a recording operation by discharging ink;
a platen for guiding a recording medium, disposed so as to face said recording head;
a discharge roller for discharging the recording medium, disposed downstream of said platen and comprising at least two first roller portions and at least one second roller portion having a smaller diameter than said first roller portions; and
at least two guide members for guiding the recording medium from said platen to said discharge roller,
wherein one end of each of said guide members is rotatably supported by said platen and the other end thereof abuts against said second roller portion of said discharge roller.
2. (Original) The recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein each of said guide members comprises a stepped shape with the one end thereof being thicker than the other end that abuts against said second roller portion.

3. (Original) The recording apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein at least one of the surface of said guide members that abuts against said second roller portion and the surface of said second roller portion is formed of a low friction material.

4. (Original) The recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said platen is movable to adjust a gap between said recording head and the recording medium.

5. (Original) The recording apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising rotors cooperating with said first roller portions to form nips to pinch the recording medium, wherein each of said guide members comprises a guide surface for guiding the recording medium and is positioned by said second roller portion such that the guide surface lies below the nips.

6. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus for performing a recording operation on a recording medium with an inkjet head that discharges ink, comprising:

transporting means for transporting the recording medium;

a platen for guiding the recording medium transported by said transporting means;

holding means for holding the inkjet head so as to face said platen;

a transport roller for transporting the recording medium downstream of said platen, said transport roller comprising a first roller portion coming into contact with the recording medium and a second roller portion having a smaller diameter than said first roller portion;

a rotor cooperating with said first roller portion for sandwiching the recording medium; and

a guide member, positioned by said second roller portion, for guiding the recording medium from said platen into a nip between said first roller portion and said rotor,

wherein said guide member comprises an upstream positioning portion positioned by said platen and a downstream positioning portion positioned by said second roller portion.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The recording apparatus according to Claim 7 6, wherein said upstream positioning portion of said guide member is rotatably supported by said platen.

9. (Currently amended) The recording apparatus according to Claim 7 6, wherein said downstream positioning portion of said guide member abuts against said second roller portion.

10. (Currently amended) The recording apparatus according to Claim 7 6, wherein said guide member is of a stepped shape with said upstream positioning portion being thicker than said downstream positioning portion.

11. (Currently amended) The recording apparatus according to Claim 7 6, wherein at least one of the surface of said guide member that abuts against said second roller portion and the surface of said second roller portion is formed of a low-friction material.

12. (Original) The recording apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said guide member comprises a guide surface for guiding the recording medium and is positioned by said second roller portion such that the guide surface lies below the nip.

13. (Original) The recording apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said platen is movable to adjust a gap between the inkjet head and the recording medium.

14. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus for performing a recording operation on a recording medium with an inkjet head that discharges ink, comprising:

transporting means for transporting the recording medium;

a platen for guiding the recording medium transported by said transporting means;

holding means for holding the inkjet head so as to face said platen;

a transport roller for transporting the recording medium downstream of the platen, said transport roller comprising at least two first roller portions coming into contact with the recording medium and at least one second roller portion having a ~~small~~ smaller diameter than said first roller portions;

at least two rotors cooperating with corresponding first roller portions for sandwiching the recording medium; and

at least two guide members, supported by said second roller portion, for guiding the recording medium from said platen into a nip between said first roller portions and said corresponding rotors,

wherein said platen is movably supported so as to change a distance from said platen to the inkjet head held by said holding means, and

wherein each of said guide members comprises an upstream supporting portion supported by said platen and a downstream supporting portion supported by said second roller portion.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The recording apparatus according to Claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein said upstream supporting portion of each of said guide members is rotatably supported by said platen.

17. (Currently amended) The recording apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said downstream supporting portion of each of said guide members abuts against said second roller portion.

18. (Currently amended) The recording apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein each of said guide members is of a stepped shape with said upstream positioning portion being thicker than said downstream positioning portion.

19. (Currently amended) The recording apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein at least one of the surface of said guide members that abuts against said second roller portion and the surface of said second roller portion is formed of a low-friction material.

20. (Original) The recording apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein each of said guide members comprises a guide surface for guiding the recording medium and is supported by said second roller portion such that that guide surface lies below the nip.